

***The Great Sayings in the Gospels***  
***Message 146***  
***Final Theology Lesson 05***  
***When the Comforter is Come***  
***John 16:5-14***

John 16:5-14

- 5 But now I go my way to him that sent me; and none of you asketh me, Whither goest thou?
- 6 But because I have said these things unto you, sorrow hath filled your heart.
- 7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.
- 8 And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:
- 9 Of sin, because they believe not on me;
- 10 Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more;
- 11 Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.
- 12 I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.
- 13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.
- 14 He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

**Introduction:**

In order to get all of the discussion concerning the Holy Spirit we need to back up and catch a passage that we did not deal with as we came past it.

John 15:26-27

- 26 But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:
- 27 And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning.

A radical change is coming to the world and these disciples are going to be the focus of it. But before they get to that place their world is going to be turned upside down. Their mistaken ideas concerning Christ are going to be shown to be error.

Luke 24:13-21

- 13 And, behold, two of them went that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was from Jerusalem about threescore furlongs.
- 14 And they talked together of all these things which had happened.
- 15 And it came to pass, that, while they communed together and reasoned, Jesus himself drew near, and went with them.
- 16 But their eyes were holden that they should not know him.
- 17 And he said unto them, What manner of communications are these that ye have

- one to another, as ye walk, and are sad?
- 18 And the one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answering said unto him, Art thou only a stranger in Jerusalem, and hast not known the things which are come to pass therein these days?
- 19 And he said unto them, What things? And they said unto him, Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, which was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people:
- 20 And how the chief priests and our rulers delivered him to be condemned to death, and have crucified him.
- 21 But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel: and beside all this, to day is the third day since these things were done.

Their idea of ‘redeeming Israel’ was skewed by their wrong understanding of the OT, which rendered their view of Jesus and His Work also in error. In this encounter Jesus took the OT and instructed them properly concerning the whole picture, but this required a very radical shift in their view of scripture, their view of Israel, of Christ, and of their place in the world.

The disciples, standing where they stood with the cross yet in front of them could not possibly process the upheaval in all things that was coming over the next two months. So, Jesus gave them little pieces of the information and assured them that He was going to see to it that they were eventually fully educated as to the whole picture that was about to unfold before them, again, with them at the epicenter of it all.

And, a massive part of this change that was coming to them had to do with the Holy Spirit of God, the Third Person of the Trinity (Father, Son, Holy Spirit), and what His role was going to be in the world going forward.

Israel and her worship system had already been partially abandoned by God. The ‘shekinah’ that had indwelt the inner sanctum of the temple since the days of Solomon, left during the days of spiritual rebellion that preceded the Babylonian invasion and captivity. So far as we have record, He had not returned when the temple was rebuilt under Nehemiah and Ezra. Yet, in just about 53 days from the words of Jesus in our current passage, He is going to return and with great power to the temple mount but not to the ‘Holy of Holies’ in the temple. Instead, He is going to fall on the disciples as a group and empower the work of the gospel in a way that the world systems of government could not resist. And, these eleven men are going to be the ‘tip of the spear,’ the ‘hinge’ upon which the work of God in the world will revolve. They are literally going to ‘turn the world upside down.’

And, this Comforter that Jesus spoke about on that Last Night was the Primary Agent of God in the world upheaval that was about to begin. Let us look at some of the interesting things that Jesus had to say about this Comforter.

### **I. “If I do not go away, the Comforter will not come.”**

As I thought about this statement, I tried to imagine a world in which Jesus Christ had stayed and the Holy Spirit had not come. Would the gospel had ever spread out from Israel? How could

those who loved Christ ever have been persuaded to leave Him? Where would those who trusted Christ in distant lands, if there had been any, would have traveled? To the mission field or to Israel? Right now, if Jesus were living physically in Israel, what would you be doing? Saving money to go see Him? Trying to figure out how you could live there?

What I realized is that it is simply impossible to imagine our world without the mighty Holy Spirit of God empowering the Church of God across the last 20 or 21 centuries. What would the nations be like today if they had not been powerfully impacted by the gospel? To what depths would humanity have sunk without His restraining power? How deeply would the human race be enslaved without His Work? We simply cannot know.

But Jesus did know and He expressed what He knew in a very subdued way when He said, "It is expedient for you that I go away, for if I go not away the Comforter will not come." 'Expedient,' "suitable for achieving a particular end in a given circumstance," Miriam-Webster Dictionary. How profoundly He understated the issue!

There is no doubt that apart from the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost the gospel would have never penetrated Europe, that your ancestors and mine would have never received it, that there would have been no persecuted Christians looking for a New World and no country such as America. You and I, if we existed at all, would have been hopeless pagans without any access whatsoever to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

## **II. "I will send him unto you"**

Oh, and did He ever. I do not know if the world has ever encountered the kind of change that the 120 disciples in Jerusalem underwent in the course of 10 days.

Their first impulse, even after the resurrection, was to scatter back to their homes and back to their livelihoods.

John 21:2-3

2 There were together Simon Peter, and Thomas called Didymus, and Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, and the sons of Zebedee, and two other of his disciples.

3 Simon Peter saith unto them, I go a fishing. They say unto him, We also go with thee. They went forth, and entered into a ship immediately; and that night they caught nothing.

Jesus, of course, appeared to them and caused them to catch a mighty load, but the point is that there was no organizational structure to the group without the constant Presence of Jesus. For almost a month He made appearances from time to time but nothing much was going on except that the word continued to spread among those who believed on Him.

It was not until He gathered the 120 together in Jerusalem and commanded them not to leave until they were endued with power that any sort of sense of purpose and mutual commitment began to develop.

Luke 24:49 (*just before the ascension*)

49 And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

Acts 1:6-14 (*about the same time*)

6 When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?

7 And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.

8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

9 And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.

10 And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;

11 Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

12 Then returned they unto Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is from Jerusalem a sabbath day's journey.

13 And when they were come in, they went up into an upper room, where abode both Peter, and James, and John, and Andrew, Philip, and Thomas, Bartholomew, and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon Zelotes, and Judas the brother of James.

14 These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.

The organizing principles were the command of Jesus to tarry in Jerusalem and the promise that they would be empowered in a special way. But, still, I wonder if any of them had any idea of what was about to come upon them.

Acts 2:1-4

1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Acts 2:37-42

37 Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?

38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name

- of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.
- 39 For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.
- 40 And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation.
- 41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.
- 42 And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

There were Jews and Gentile believers in the Jewish system (*called proselytes*) from all over the world that were present at Jerusalem for the great Feast of Pentecost. To these people the 120 disciples proclaimed the gospel of Jesus Christ in the languages of the home countries of all those folks. The Holy Spirit gave conviction of sin, faith, repentance and the New Birth to around three thousand individuals, so transforming their lives that they banded together in continual fellowship around the realities of the Work of Christ.

And this was just the beginning. A few days later over five thousand were converted, and the conversions continued on a daily basis, including a great number of the priests.

Acts 6:7

- 7 And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.

### III. “He will reprove the world”

John 16:8-11

- 8 And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:
- 9 Of sin, because they believe not on me;
- 10 Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more;
- 11 Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.

John 15:26-27

- 26 ...he shall testify of me:
- 27 And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning.

There are massive errors in the human race concerning the Holy Spirit of God but two of the most profound concern: (1) why is He here? And, (2) what does that mean for the believer?

#### A. Why is the Holy Spirit here?

According to Jesus, one primary reason that the Holy Spirit was sent is to ‘reprove the world.’ The word used here for ‘reprove’ means to ‘rebuke’ especially when someone is at fault or has done something wrong.

As it worked out on the Day of Pentecost, the empowering of the Holy Spirit upon Peter (and the others, I believe) led him to confront those Jews concerning their sins of unbelief concerning Jesus and for His murder. He spared no feelings. He did not try to soften the language so as not to offend them. He confronted them directly and powerfully with rebuke.

As the Holy Spirit motivated Peter to speak, He was also at work in the hearts of those hearing him, (when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart). In this snapshot one sees a very clear visual of what Jesus said to His disciples that night before the crucifixion.

- 8 And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:
- 9 Of sin, because they believe not on me;
- 10 Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more;
- 11 Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.

In other words, the Holy Spirit was sent and has come to bring a very difficult message to hear, to enable those who believe on Christ to bear witness to that message, and to grant the ability to those who hear the message to grasp it, believe it, respond to it, and then to bear witness to it themselves.

## **B. So..... what has happened?**

As we look around us we do not see much going on that resembles those early days of the church. There is no powerful, offensive message being proclaimed. In fact, everyone seems to be going overboard *not* to offend unbelievers in any way, to attract them by appealing to their natural desires.

And.... although we see much religious activity going on, where are the serious prayer meetings? Prayer meetings, as such, have almost disappeared. Special prayer meetings like those we have in February are only sparsely attended.

What about the holy lives that the Holy Spirit enabled those people to live... where are those? We can scarcely tell the Christian from the worldling in our day. Things are not at all like they were in the history of the church from the first century until the 19<sup>th</sup>.

1 Thess 1:2-8

- 2 We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers;
- 3 Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father;
- 4 Knowing, brethren beloved, your election of God.
- 5 For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake.
- 6 And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost:
- 7 So that ye were ensamples to all that believe in Macedonia and Achaia.

- 8 For from you sounded out the word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith to God-ward is spread abroad; so that we need not to speak any thing.

What happened was that men figured out that Jesus did not lie about anything. He indeed told the truth about the coming of the Holy Spirit, the power that He would bring and the message that He would enable men to preach and believe. But they found out that He told the truth about something else as well that we have already discussed.

John 15:18-21

- 18 If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you.  
19 If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.  
20 Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.  
21 But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me.

This Holy Spirit gets people in trouble, causes them to be hated and persecuted. He caused it with the apostles and with every generation of faithful Christians that came after them. There is a **Big Cost** to having the Holy Spirit operating in one's life.

So, what happened was that men began to invent versions of Christianity that did not get them into trouble. And they continued to do so until now the world is filled with inoffensive Christian churches competing with one another as to how many lost people they can assemble and entertain on Sunday mornings while pretending that they are enabled and directed by the Holy Spirit.

Listen, Jesus made people mad. He talked to them about their sins. He called on them to repent, to turn, to be obedient to God with their whole mind, heart, soul and strength. And, He told them to love their neighbors, whoever they came upon in need, as themselves. He pointed out hypocrisy and rebuked it openly. So, did His disciples and so have His faithful servants since the first century.

And... guess what?

John 15:26

- 26 But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:

In other words, He, the Holy Spirit, will say the same things, in the same ways, with the same emphasis, as Jesus Himself. He is sent by Jesus, why would He say anything differently than Jesus said?

- C. But the Holy Spirit is also something else to the believer, an Amazing Resource of Power and Enablement to live as God has called him/her to live.

Eph 3:14-21

- 14 For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
15 Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,  
16 That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;  
17 That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,  
18 May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;  
19 And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.  
20 Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,  
21 Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

Which should make every believer excited to obey at least one of the commands of the NT.

Eph 5:18

18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;  
He is available to every saint. He is the Gift of God, a free resource. And, His Presence is Wonderful!